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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/981,124      | 10/17/2001  | Allan Green          | 26-98A              | 9503             |

7590 09/17/2007  
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NEW YORK, NY 10036

EXAMINER

MCELWAIN, ELIZABETH F

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1638

MAIL DATE DELIVERY MODE

09/17/2007

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

|                              |  |                                     |  |
|------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | <b>Application No.</b><br>09/981,124     | <b>Applicant(s)</b><br>GREEN ET AL. |  |
|                              | <b>Examiner</b><br>Elizabeth F. McElwain | <b>Art Unit</b><br>1638             |  |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1)  Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 February 2007 and 07 June 2007.
- 2a)  This action is **FINAL**.                      2b)  This action is non-final.
- 3)  Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4)  Claim(s) 41-43 and 50-61 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6)  Claim(s) 41-43 and 50-61 is/are rejected.
- 7)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9)  The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10)  The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a)  accepted or b)  objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11)  The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12)  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a)  All    b)  Some \* c)  None of:
1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/059,769.
  3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

### DETAILED ACTION

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on February 5, 2007 has been entered.

Arguments submitted June 7, 2007 have been considered and the claims are examined in the present office action.

The amendment filed February 5, 2007 has been entered.

Claims 1-40 and 44-49 are cancelled

Claims 41 and 43 are currently amended.

Claims 50-61 are newly submitted.

Claims 41-43 and 50-61 are pending and are examined.

2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112*

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 59 and 60 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

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5. Claims 59 and 60 are indefinite and confusing in that it is unclear if the nucleic acid that is obtained from a plant refers to obtaining the nucleic acid from the plant cell that is transformed and claimed in claim 57, or if it refers to obtaining the nucleic acid from a plant prior to transforming the plant cell recited in claim 57.

6. Claim 50 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Newly submitted claim 50 recites "functional epoxygenase". However, this phrase could not be found in the specification as originally filed. It is unclear that there is support for this phrase. The deletion of "functional" would overcome the rejection.

7. Claims 41-43 and 50-61 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for transgenic Arabidopsis and flax plants that are transformed with a nucleic acid of SEQ ID NO: 1 or a nucleic acid encoding the delta-12 epoxygenase of SEQ ID NO: 2, does not reasonably provide enablement for any transgenic plant species transformed with a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide having the recited histidine rich regions and having at least 60% identity to SEQ ID NO: 2. The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention commensurate in scope with these claims, for the reasons set forth in the last office action. In addition, the present claims are not limited to a polypeptide with any

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specified activity. Therefore, it would require undue experimentation by one skilled in the art to determine how to use any of the multitude of sequences encompassed by the claims, for the reasons of record set forth in the previous office actions. Furthermore, the Examiner maintains that undue experimentation would be required to identify and run a multitude of tests on each of the sequences encompassed by the claims to determine what activity they coded for and what the properties of the transformed plant would be.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

9. Claims 41, 42, 57, 58, 59 and 61 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by DeBonte et al.

10. DeBonte et al teach transformation of Brassica napus (oilseed rape) with SEQ ID NO : 1, which is at least 74.3% identical to SEQ ID NO : 2 of the present application and wherein the prior art sequence further comprises three histidine boxes as specified in the claims. See the prior art SEQ ID NO: 1 at amino acids 105 to 109; 141 to 145; and 316 to 320, for example. See also columns 11-18, for example.

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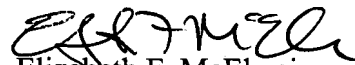
**Conclusion**

No claims are allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Elizabeth F. McElwain whose telephone number is (571) 272-0802. The examiner can normally be reached on increased flex time.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anne Marie Grunberg can be reached on (571) 272-0975. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Elizabeth F. McElwain  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 1638

EFM